



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



### MESSAGE FROM SDDVA SECRETARY ZIMMERMAN

You can call me “old fashioned,” but I’m challenged by the fact that we go straight from Halloween to Christmas. Whatever happened to celebrating Thanksgiving and honoring our veterans?

Thanksgiving seems to have become a day of cutting coupons, making shopping lists, and mapping out a game of attack for Black Friday. Whatever happened to family gatherings where we reminisce on our past and count the many blessings we have to be thankful for—family, friends, bountiful harvests, and freedom? Freedoms that were obtained and protected by the men and women in uniform.

Throughout this nation’s history, America’s soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and members of the coastguard have bravely answered the calls to defend our freedom, to aid our friends and allies, and to turn back aggressors.

These are America’s sons and daughters who serve with a dedication that is unparalleled. If you called them a hero, they would tell you they are not. They would say to you that they were just doing their job, serving their country. Their bravery, their resourcefulness and their patriotism, marks them as America’s finest citizens. Their loyalty to this country and to their fellow veterans is unending.

This past week one of these heroes demonstrated that loyalty. Vietnam Veteran Milt Morris of Pierre and his team from Classique Rock, facilitated the relocation of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Memorial to Capitol Lake. The MOPH have long wanted their memorial near the other veteran’s memorials at Capitol Lake, and Milt out of his loyalty and unending commitment to these heroes made that dream a reality.

On Veterans Day let us all celebrate humble men and women who understand the call of duty, the meaning of honor and values of this nation. Let us celebrate our veterans who have served and those that are serving. Let us celebrate those who have supported our brothers and sisters who have served.

Always remember, a sincere *thank you* – means more to most veterans than any other reward.

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## VA LAUNCHES HEPATITIS C ALD DASHBOARD

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is stepping up its efforts to accelerate treatment for veterans with hepatitis C and advanced liver disease (ALD) through the creation of a Hepatitis C–ALD dashboard. The dashboard works by using a set of criteria, including age, gender, geography, service era along with and race and ethnicity, to distinguish veteran groups at highest risk for ALD as a result of hepatitis C.

“The dashboard is a powerful data tool to help the VA identify veteran groups disproportionately affected by Advanced Liver Disease and to ensure they receive the appropriate health care,” said Dr. David Shulkin, VA’s Under Secretary for Health. “The VA will provide data directly to facilities for any of the vulnerable groups identified by the dashboard and support outreach efforts to veteran populations disparately impacted and not currently served by VA health care. This is an important step in assuring all veterans with ALD receive timely, appropriate care.”

VA’s Veterans Health Administration’s Office of Health Equity developed the dashboard as part of its efforts to target and accelerate care of veterans with this serious disease. The new resource promotes equitable diagnosis and treatment of underserved veterans with hepatitis C and ALD nationally and compliments existing clinical hepatitis and liver disease dashboards available in some veterans Integrated Service Networks or VISNs.

Chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is the most common blood-borne infection in the world. Complications that result from untreated HCV infection include progressive liver damage leading to cirrhosis, primary cancer of the liver, liver failure and death. Although many of these complications are treatable or even preventable, three-quarters of the individuals with HCV infection in the U.S. are unaware they are infected. The VA leads the country in [hepatitis](#) screening, testing, treatment, research and prevention.

The Hepatitis C-ALD dashboard further advances the vision for quality care and improved access to care identified in VA’s [Blueprint for Excellence](#).

For more information on the dashboard, visit:

<http://www.hsrp.research.va.gov/news/video/heap.cfm>.





## MOPH MEMORIAL MOVED TO CAPITOL LAKE

In 2004 South Dakota was notified that the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation would provide each state with a memorial depicting the "Purple Heart." At that time, the decision was made to place the memorial in front of the Soldiers and Sailors War Memorial Building, the stone was set and a dedication ceremony was held in 2005.

The South Dakota Military Order of the Purple Heart for the Department of the Dakotas (MOPH) believed that their memorial should be located near the other veterans memorials by Capitol Lake and submitted requests to Governors Rounds and Daugaard and the Capitol Complex Restoration & Beautification Commission.

In April, MOPH members met with the CCRB Commission and received authorization to relocate the memorial.

Partners assisting MOPH with the move of this Memorial included the SD Department of Veterans Affairs, SD Bureau of Administration and Milt Morris, owner of Morris Inc and Dakota Classique Rock.

Our sincere thanks to the Bureau of Administration for finding the perfect location for this memorial and for providing the groundwork and lighting. Our special thanks to Milt Morris and his team of experts from Dakota Classique Rock for donating the time and costs associated with moving and resetting the memorial.

Milt is a Vietnam Veteran that has an enormous portfolio filled with stories of helping others. Many will recall that it was Milt, his family, and his team that worked tirelessly to ensure that the Pierre and Fort Pierre communities would survive the 2011 flood. Milt and his team worked 24-7 to build the levees needed and maintained pumps throughout these communities.

It's been said, "if you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life." Thanks Milt for touching the lives of South Dakota's Purple Heart recipients. Once again, you've made a difference in the lives of South Dakotans.

Once the memorial was secured, the four Vietnam Veterans—Milt Morris, Ken Teunissen, Wayne Ingalls and Mark Williamson, stood shoulder to shoulder and saluted the memorial.



Left to right: Jeff Holden (BOA), Leah Svendsen (BOA), Rollee Issacson (BOA), Milt Morris (Dakota Classique Rock), Mark Williamson (Military Order of the Purple Heart), Jesse Monroe (Dakota Classique Rock), Scott Mutschler (Dakota Classique Rock), Nancy Gordon (Dakota Classique Rock), Wayne Ingalls (Military Order of the Purple Heart), and Ken Teunissen (Military Order of the Purple Heart).



## SCHORZMANN RECOGNIZED FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO VETERANS

This week the Davison County Commissioners recognized James Schorzmann for his volunteer service transporting veterans to the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center.

Schorzmann had over 860 hours of volunteer driving.

James Schorzmann is a veteran of the U.S Air Force and has been a volunteer driver since retiring from the U.S. Postal Service.

Currently Davison County has honored three drivers for having over 800 hours and one driver with over 1500 hours.



## PAYNE JOINS THE DAVISON COUNTY TEAM

Please join us in welcoming Maria Payne to the CTVSO network. Maria is the new Davison County VSO Office Assistant.

For the past 15 years Maria has worked in various medical offices, as receptionist and in billing and insurance. She looks forward to using her past work experience and love for people, to be of assistance to the VSO Department and to the veterans and their families in Davison County and surrounding areas. Maria and her husband Ben and have two children, Jamie and Katie.

When not busy with work and family, Maria enjoys camping, attending her children's activities, volunteering at church and hosting friends and family in her home.



## SDDVA PARTICIPATES IN BOOTS TO BUSINESS

This week SDDVA field staff participated in the "Boots to Business Reboot" program in Pierre.

Boots to Business is a training program that provides participants an overview of business ownership as a career vocation, knowledge components of a business plan and an introduction to available public and private sector resources available to them.

This training was provided by the United States Small Business Administration.

Secretary Zimmerman welcomed the participants and provided an overview of the services provided by the Department.







# Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive

*Benefiting homeless and at-risk Veterans and Military Families*

HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary  
and  
Autumn Simunek ~ Miss South Dakota

## Contribute "Buddy Basket(s)"

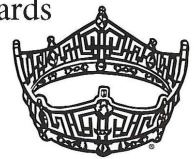
**Home-Warming Welcome Recipe:** Assemble a Laundry Basket/Waste Basket filled with:  
Paper Towels - Laundry Detergent - Household Cleansers - Rubber Gloves - Cleaning Sponges - Dust Pan w/Hand  
Brush - Light Bulbs - Flashlight - Batteries - Shower Curtain w/rings - Bath Towel Set - Bathroom Tissue - Dishes -  
Eating Utensils - Dish Soap - Dish Towel Set - *Frosted with clear wrap/bow and greeting tag/card*

## Substitute or Single Household and Essential Items Welcome

Bed Sheets, Pillows, Blankets, and Sleeping Bags (all sizes) - Small Appliances, Alarm Clocks, etc. -  
Hygiene Products - Warm Apparel and Socks (all sizes) - Shopping Gift Cards



**Monetary Donations:** Checks payable & mailed to:  
SD American Legion Auxiliary, Attn: Vets Relief Drive  
129 North Main Avenue • Hartford, SD 57033



## SOUTH DAKOTA DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

November 11, 2015 - January 15, 2016

- \*Vermillion - The Broadcaster/Plain Talk • 201 W Cherry Str.; Main Street Center • 320 West Main Str.
- \*Sioux Falls - American Legion Post 15 • 1701 W Legion Drive; Berakhah House • 400 N Western Ave.
- \*Mitchell - American Legion Post 18 • 107 N Main Street
- \*Hot Springs - American Legion Post 71 • 1045 Jennings Avenue
- \*Rapid City - American Legion Post 22 • 818 E St. Patrick Str.; The Cornerstone Rescue Mission • 30 Main Str.
- \*Sturgis - Chamber of Commerce • 2040 Junction Avenue
- \*Deadwood - Chamber of Commerce • 767 Main Street; Lawrence County Admin. Bldg. Lobby • 90 Sherman Str.;
- \*Spearfish - Area Chamber of Commerce • 106 W Kansas Str.; Black Hills Pioneer • 315 Seaton Circle  
Black Hills State University • School of Education - Jonas 203A

*Thank you for contributing to South Dakota's Veteran Outreach Centers to assist our military heroes and their families!*

*Additional Information: Autumn.Simunek@misssd.org; 605.890.3093*

## VABHHCS ANNOUNCES PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR EIS RECONFIGURATION

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will host six public meetings to provide information and accept comments on the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement and National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation: Reconfiguration of VA Black Hills Health Care System." Interested parties are invited to participate in any of six public meetings on the Draft EIS and Section 106 process:

- Monday, November 30, Doors open 5:00 p.m., Meeting 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.—Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center, Lincoln Room—2111 N. LaCrosse Street, Rapid City, SD
- Tuesday, December 1, Doors open 5:00 p.m., Meeting 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.—Red Rock River Resort—603 N River St, Hot Springs, SD
- Wednesday, December 2, Doors open 1:00 p.m., Meeting 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.—Pine Ridge School (cafeteria) - 101 Thorpe Circle, Pine Ridge, SD
- Wednesday, December 2, Doors open 6:00 p.m., Meeting 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.—Chadron State College, Ballroom in Student Center—1000 Main St, Chadron, NE
- Thursday, December 3, Doors open 12:30 p.m., Meeting 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.—Newberry's—502 Box Butte Ave., Alliance, NE
- Thursday, December 3, Doors open 6:00 p.m., Meeting 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.—Gering Civic Center, Oregon Trail Room—1050 M St, Gering, NE

Verbal and written public comments will be accepted at the public meetings. If you plan to provide comments verbally, please write your name on the speaker list when you arrive at the meeting. You may also submit written comments on the Draft EIS through January 5, 2016, online at [www.blackhillseis.com](http://www.blackhillseis.com), by email to [vablackhillsfuture@va.gov](mailto:vablackhillsfuture@va.gov), or by regular mail to Staff Assistant to the Director, VA BHHCS, 113 Comanche Road, Fort Meade, SD 57741.

The Draft EIS is available on the VA BHHCS website [www.blackhills.va.gov/vablackhillsfuture/](http://www.blackhills.va.gov/vablackhillsfuture/) and at the Hot Springs, Rapid City Downtown, Sturgis, Chadron, Alliance, Lied Scottsbluff, and Pierre (Rawlins Municipal) public libraries; as well as in Pine Ridge at the Oglala Lakota College Pine Ridge Center library at the high school.

## VABHHCS TO HOST VETERANS STAND DOWN

The VA Black Hills Health Care System (VABHHCS) will host a Veteran Stand Down on Tuesday November 10, 2015. The event is open to all veterans and their families from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (MT) and will be held at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rushmore Hall, C&D.

Goodwill of the Great Plains will provide a meal at the event.

The opening ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m. with the presentation of the colors by the VFW Honor Guard, the National Anthem sung by Miss South Dakota, Autumn Simunek, followed by a welcome from Sandra Horsman, VA BHHCS Director. All Veterans are invited to attend and there is no charge for any of the services provided.

For more information about the Stand Down contact Jamison Hild, VA BHHCS at 605-490-8587.

# Upcoming Events

Nov. 7—Vietnam Veterans of America State Council Meeting—Pierre Post 8 American Legion—Noon (CT)  
Nov. 11- Code Talker Medal Exhibit—Crazy Horse Memorial  
Nov. 13—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Hot Springs—10:00 am  
Nov. 16-17—SD Veterans Commission Meeting—Redrossa—Pierre 1:00 pm (CT)  
Nov. 17—Women Veterans Honoring Ceremony—SRST Admin Bldg—Ft. Yates, ND 11:00 am  
Nov. 18—Veterans Council Leg. Round Table—Sioux Falls—(DAV —1519 W. 51st St) 11:30 am (CT)  
Nov. 19—Veterans Council Leg. Round Table—Watertown—(Amer. Leg. Post—1412 9th Ave. SW ) 1 pm (CT)  
Nov. 21—Veterans Council Leg. Round Table—Rapid City (VFW Post 1273—420 Main Street) 10 am (MT)  
Dec. 1—SDDVA Mini Conference—Rapid City TREA—1981 Centre Street—10:00 am (MT)  
Dec. 2—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pierre—American Legion Post 8 —520 W. Pierre Street (CT)  
Dec. 3—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings—American Legion Post 74—1229 Western Avenue (CT)  
Dec. 7 Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony—Capitol Lake—Pierre—11:00 am (CT)  
Dec. 8- Governor's Budget Address—Pierre

## 2016

Jan. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)  
Jan. 12—SD Legislative Session Opens—Pierre  
Jan. 14—Veterans Legislative Breakfast—Pierre  
Jan. 27-28-State Tribal Relations Days—Pierre  
Apr. 4—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)  
April 15-17—DAV Convention—Rapid City  
Jul. 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)  
Oct. 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)



Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer  
South Dakota Department of the Military <http://military.sd.gov>  
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>  
Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
Phone: 605-773-8242  
E-mail address: [audry.ricketts@state.sd.us](mailto:audry.ricketts@state.sd.us)

